Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 7170

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PORG, KS, KN

USMISSION USUN

SUBJECT: ROK VIEWS ON NON-ALIGNED DECLARATION

REF: BELGRADE 5742

1. EMBASSY OFFICER HELD FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH UN DIVISION DIRECTOR CHANG AUGUST 14. CHANG SAID THAT MINISTRY STILL HAD NOT COMPLETED ANALYSIS OF PROCEEDINGS AT BELGRADE. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS PRONOUNCED CONFLICT BETWEEN ACCOUNT RECEIVED FROM TWO AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS REPORTING INTENSE DEBATE ON KOREA IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE, AND FROM INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA WHO CLAIMED THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE DISCUSSION OF KOREA OUTSIDE THE SIX-MEMBER NEGOTIATING GROUP, THEY HOPED THINGS WOULD BE CLARIFIED AFTER AMBASSADOR MUN IN NEW YORK WAS ABLE TO DISCUSS EVENTS WITH INDIAN UN AMBASSADOR JAIPUR, WHO HAD CHAIRED POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

2. CHANG SAID ROKG WAS RELUCTANT TO ISSUE OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE DECLARATION. HE NOTED AGAIN THAT INFORMAL COMMENTS REPORTED EARLIER (SEOUL 6761) REPRESNTED THE GENERAL MINISTRY VIEW. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID, THE ORK CONFIDENTIAL

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WELCOMES THE TREND TOWARD EVEN-HANDEDNESS IMPLIED BY THE LANGUAGE ADOPTED, AND DOES NOT WISH TO ENTER INTO UNNECESSARY CONTENTION WITH NAM MEMBERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, CHANG SAID, SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY, THE LANGUAGE OF THE DECLARATION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS ACCEPTABLE; IF IT WERE PRESENTED AT THE UN, FOR EXAMPLE, HE THOUGHT THE ROK WOULD HAVE TO MAKE COUNTER PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY

REGARDING SUCH MATTERS AS DISSOLUTION OF THE UN COMMAND AND WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS. IN SUM, ALTHOUGH THE DECLARATION REPRESENTED A STEP, OR PERHAPS SEVERAL STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, IT SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS SOMETHING THE ROKG COULD ENDORSE.

3. WE SHARE CHANG'S VIEWS ON THE DECLARATION. WE AGREE THAT NOTHING IS TO BE GAINED BY GRATUITOUS DISPUTES, BUT ARE SOMEWHAT CONCEREND. ESPECIALLY GIVEN GOLOB'S COMMENTS IN FINAL PARAGRAPH REFTEL, THAT YUGOSLAVS AND OTHERS MIGHT GET THE IDEA THAT THE LANGUAGE ADOPTED IS SATISFACTORY AS A STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR THE U.S. OR FOR THE ROK. THUS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALOOW THE YUGOSLAVS TO TAKE TOO MUCH CREDIT FOR THIS "SOFTER" LANGUAGE. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY BELGRADE OR OTHERS AS APPROPRIATE TAKE A SUITABLE OCCASION TO NOTE TO THE YUGOSLAVS THAT WHILE WE ARE AWARE OF THE EFFORTS MADE TO ACCOMMODATE OUR AND THE ROK'S CONCERNS, THE DECLARATION AS PASSED STILL PRESENTS SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR US AND CANNOT BE VIEWED AS AN AGREED OURACCEPTABLE STATEMENT ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. GLEYSTEEN

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